

mental health counselors in all of the high schools. We passed that on a bipartisan basis. We passed it with Democrats and Republicans. It was signed into law by a Republican Governor who became a Republican Senator. Not one Republican who voted for that law to make kids safe in school lost their reelection, not one.

I am going to read the names into the RECORD, Mr. Speaker, and then I am going to use the rest of my time to take a moment of silence for the victims:

Alyssa Alhadeff, Martin Duque Anguiano, Scott Beigel, Nicholas Dworet, Aaron Feis, Jaime Guttenberg, Chris Hixon, Luke Hoyer, Cara Loughran, Gina Montalto, Joaquin Oliver, Alaina Petty, Meadow Pollack, Helena Ramsay, Carmen Schentrup, Alex Schachter, and Peter Wang.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 35 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. KIM of California) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Our help is in the name of the Lord who made Heaven and Earth. We call upon Your holy name, O God, that You would hear our prayers in Heaven and attend to our needs here on Earth.

There are wars and rumors of wars overwhelming our news feed, including the ongoing conflict in places like Ukraine and South Sudan. Nations rise up against nation and our hearts sink at the sight of the injustice and unrelenting warfare. We call upon Your righteous name, O God, that You would hear our prayers in Heaven and bring peace and justice to our world.

We are horrified by the earthquakes' merciless devastation in Turkey and Syria, and deeply saddened by the unprecedented famine in other regions across the globe. We call upon Your powerful name, O God, that You would hear our prayers in Heaven and be merciful to Your people. Rescue them from this time of tribulation and in Your grace provide for them in their dire need.

We confess that in our own families and communities and in this country, we seem to have turned from our faith in You and have betrayed one another in countless ways. Lawlessness has in-

creased and our love for You and our fellow human beings seems to have grown cold. We call upon Your merciful name, O God, that You would hear our prayers in Heaven and heal our land.

May the gospel of Your sovereignty serve as a testimony to us and to all Nations that, once again, we would call upon Your name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. LEE of Florida) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. LEE of Florida led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

STATE OF THE UNION RESPONSE

(Mr. ALFORD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ALFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise today in response to the President's State of the Union Address.

While the state of the Union was the focus last night, today, I am more concerned about the state of the President.

Just hours ago, the President of the United States stood in this very room right behind me and told one of the greatest tales that I have seen in modern history, attempting to tout optimism, curbed inflation, and a secure nation.

However, this failing, flailing, incompetent chief executive ran from the fact that he welcomed more than 4 million illegal aliens into our sovereign Nation, he reversed our energy independence, he let the Chinese spy balloon float entirely over our Nation with impunity, flying over Whiteman Air Force Base, home of the B-2 Stealth bomber.

The state of our Union is strong. The state of our President is weak.

We don't need more yelling, Mr. President. We need more healing in America.

Some 40 years ago, President Ronald Reagan said, It is time for us to re-

assert our trust in God. It is time for us to realize that we need Him more than He needs us. It is time to turn to God for the healing of America. Let's get about the business of healing America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE CHILDCARE

(Ms. JACOBS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACOBS. Madam Speaker, as a 34-year-old woman, I can tell you that affordable and accessible childcare is a top priority for my generation, but the problem isn't that millennials can't budget or that we are eating too much avocado toast; it is that the cost of childcare has skyrocketed, if you can even find it.

In San Diego, the average annual cost for childcare for one infant in a licensed center is more than \$19,000, which is out of reach for most middle- and low-income families.

And it is not any easier for providers who are in one of the lowest paid professions in the country and struggle to make ends meet and keep their doors open.

The free market hasn't fixed the childcare crisis, and small or temporary fixes just aren't good enough.

That is why I am proud to introduce the Child Care for Every Community Act today with Senator ELIZABETH WARREN and Congresswoman MIKIE SHERRILL.

Our bicameral legislation would guarantee access to childcare that is affordable for every family, and it would support childcare workers in their incredibly important work.

We need big, wholesale changes to our social safety net to support kids and families starting with the Child Care for Every Community Act.

EUGENE HENLEBEN'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

(Mr. MILLS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MILLS. Madam Speaker, I come to the floor today to talk about a very special constituent from Florida's Seventh Congressional District.

Eugene Henleben was born in St. Louis 100 years ago on February 7. He served our great Nation on a PT boat during the Second World War and on an aircraft carrier in the Korean war.

After the war, Eugene moved to Chicago where he met his beautiful wife. They married in 1950 and had three children they raised in Glenview, Illinois.

He spent most of his civilian career working as an engineer, and in 1992, he moved to the great city of Longwood, Florida, where he has lived ever since.

Today, I am honored to recognize Eugene's service to our country and celebrate an incredible milestone in his life.

Our Nation's veterans are the backbone of this country. To Eugene, I say thank you for your incredible service and your sacrifice in the two wars that you fought for this Nation.

I wish you many more years to come with your family, and I thank you for your time and your dedication.

(Mrs. FLETCHER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. FLETCHER. Madam Speaker, for 1½ years now, people in Texas who are able to do so have been traveling out of State to obtain abortion care, and now that 15 other States have banned abortion, more people are traveling even farther to get the reproductive healthcare that they need.

In response to this exercise of the constitutional right to travel, lawmakers and others in Texas—and in States across the country—are threatening to take away that right, too.

These threats fail not only to reflect the will of the majority of people in this country, these threats fail to recognize the fundamental rights of Americans guaranteed in our Constitution.

Congress has the authority and the responsibility to protect people from these unconstitutional efforts to prevent, restrict, impede, or otherwise punish a person traveling to another State to obtain a legal abortion and to protect healthcare providers and others who assist that person.

Last week, I reintroduced the Ensuring Women's Right to Reproductive Freedom Act which passed this House last year with Congresswoman MARILYN STRICKLAND, Congressman JAMIE RASKIN, and more than 150 original cosponsors.

Madam Speaker, I urge the House to pass this bill, once again, to protect this fundamental right.

MAKE WASHINGTON SAFE FOR ALL AMERICANS

(Ms. LEE of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LEE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.J. Res. 26, Disapproving the Action of the District of Columbia Council in approving the Revised Criminal Code Act of 2022.

As a former Federal prosecutor and circuit court judge, I know firsthand how important it is for criminal penalties to reflect the seriousness of a crime and to ensure the safety of our communities.

Despite surging crime rates, the D.C. Council seeks to reduce the maximum sentences for violent crimes such as carjackings and robberies and enact procedural changes that will overburden the courts.

This will undermine law enforcement, and it is contrary to the actual

needs of the residents and visitors to our Nation's Capital.

Republicans are committed to data-driven criminal justice policies that will strengthen our courts and law enforcement, combat rising crime rates, and protect our communities.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this important measure to put an end to these policies and make Washington safe for all Americans.

THE PRESIDENT'S INTERPRETATION OF THE STATE OF OUR UNION

(Mr. CLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, last night President Biden gave his interpretation of the state of our Union, but after hearing his version, one thing is clear: our President lives in an alternative reality.

We all know the problems:

Crippling inflation and soaring interest rates, making it harder to save money and do business;

An open border with nearly 5 million illegal crossings since this administration took office;

A drug and crime crisis harming our communities; and

A more dangerous world with feckless leadership out of the White House, from a botched Afghanistan withdrawal to an emboldened CCP.

The fact is that Americans know the real state of our Union every time they buy groceries, put gas in their tanks, can't find baby formula or medications, or lose a loved one to the fentanyl pouring over our border.

That is why Americans elected House Republicans last November to bring change back to Washington.

We have already got to work by passing legislation to defund 87,000 IRS agents, establishing a select committee to compete with China, halting the COVID vaccine mandate for service-members, and ending the national emergency and fully reopening the Capitol to the American people.

We are just getting started. To use the words of President Biden: House Republicans plan to finish the job the right way for the American people.

PROTECTING THE SECOND AMENDMENT

(Mr. GOOD of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Madam Speaker, the Biden administration continues their all-out assault on the Second Amendment as evidenced by the President's call just last night in this very Chamber for banning weapons he finds objectionable.

Madam Speaker, Democrats believe that the government should decide your God-given constitutionally pro-

tected rights. Their new ATF rule published in the Federal Register further threatens the rights of law-abiding citizens.

It treats individuals who own pistols with stabilizing braces as if they possess illegal short-barrel rifles, and it forces them to surrender them to the Federal Government. If they don't surrender them, then they are retroactively declared criminals for what was then a lawful purchase, and they now face up to 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

This is just another example of the Washington-knows-best elites who are out-of-touch with everyday Americans.

So I introduced the PISTOL Act to block the ATF from redefining pistol braces as short-barreled rifles. My legislation provides a simple statutory definition of a pistol and would prevent the Biden administration from improperly classifying pistol braces or regulating them by decree or fiat.

The Second Amendment is not subject to bureaucratic interpretation, and we have got to fight to protect the God-given and constitutionally protected rights of all Americans.

SOUTH CAROLINA LEADERSHIP MEANS JOBS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, the wallets of South Carolinians and all Americans have been negatively affected by the destructive decisions of Biden and the Democrat-led Congress destroying jobs.

However, through the leadership of Governor Henry McMaster, with the largest Republican supermajority in South Carolina in 150 years, South Carolina has achieved a record surplus of over \$3.5 billion in unexpected revenue for the year.

Last week, in the State of the State Address by Governor McMaster, he stated that 2022 was the most successful year for economic growth in our State's history.

The Governor announced 12 projects valued at over \$10 billion creating 14,000 new jobs. Governor Jim Edwards recruited Michelin, Governor Carroll Campbell recruited BMW, Governor David Beasley promoted workfare programs, and Governor Nikki Haley saved Boeing.

South Carolina remains a shining example for America.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, who successfully protected America for 20 years, as the global war on terrorism continues moving from the Afghanistan safe haven to America.

Our support is for our appreciated ally Turkey, which has been so devastated by the earthquake.